

TEEN DATING VIOLENCE  
AWARENESS MONTH**HON. DAVID G. REICHERT**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 25, 2010*

Mr. REICHERT. Madam Speaker, I ask that we take the time to recognize the importance of Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month. This is an increasingly critical issue that has a devastating effect on our schools, families, and most importantly the victims of this horrifying crime.

The fact is that teens are at a higher risk than adults—half of reported date rapes occur among teenagers. Every year, nearly 1.5 million high school students experience physical abuse from a dating partner.

This violence against another human being breaks our hearts and should never be tolerated.

We took an important step to help these victims with the passage of my Amendment 20 to H.R. 2847, which provided funding to the Supporting Teens through Education and Protection (STEP) program to help schools combat sexual harassment.

Every young person deserves relationships based on respect, and Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month is a time to draw needed attention to this important issue. By educating our youth about the importance of safe and healthy relationships, raising awareness among those who care for them, and supporting the community services that aid victims, we can help to prevent this tragic cycle of abuse.

EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES AND  
CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF  
CHARLYE OLA FARRIS**HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 25, 2010*

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Charlye Ola Farris who passed away on February 18, 2010, and was the first African-American to serve as a Southern judge in any capacity since Reconstruction.

Charlye Farris was born in Wichita Falls, Texas. Her father, a bastion in his own right, was the first African-American school superintendent in Texas, and her mother served as an elementary school teacher for 49 years. She graduated as the valedictorian from Booker T. Washington High School in 1945 at the age of 15 and went on to complete a bachelor of arts degree in political science from Prairie View A&M College.

After spending a year teaching school, Mrs. Farris decided to pursue her dreams of obtaining a law degree. At the time, it was almost impossible for an African-American woman to gain admittance to a law school, but through hard work and determination she was accepted to the University of Denver. After her first year, she transferred to Howard University in Washington, DC, and graduated in 1953. Shortly thereafter, Mrs. Farris returned to Texas to take the Bar exam, and after passing, she was sworn in, making her the first Af-

rican-American woman to be licensed to practice law in Texas.

Mrs. Farris did not spend long celebrating, and after moving back to Wichita Falls, she took up practice in an office near the railroad tracks on the city's east side. She endured countless civil rights atrocities that would shock most people today but to her were very real. With great perseverance, she established a reputation for herself, and on July 7, 1954, members of the Wichita County Bar Association elected her to serve as Special Wichita County Judge. This made her the first African-American to serve as a judge in any capacity in the South since Reconstruction.

Mrs. Farris continued her career as a solo practitioner until she closed her office in January 2010. As a woman of faith, she was active in her church until her death and was involved in countless organizations from the local to the national level. Her life included many firsts, and she will be truly missed.

Madam Speaker, the work of Charlye Farris will truly echo through the generations as so many women and minorities have benefitted from her famous first steps. I ask my fellow colleagues today to join me in recognizing her many achievements and celebrating a life that has had such a positive impact on society.

HONORING WALTER GAMEWELL  
WATSON**HON. J. GRESHAM BARRETT**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 25, 2010*

Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the 100th birthday of Walter Gamewell Watson. Dr. Watson, known as "Curly" to his friends, is said to be the oldest known working physician in the United States. I, along with the communities of both North Augusta, South Carolina, and Augusta, Georgia, am taking this opportunity to celebrate both his life and his faithful, compassionate service to his fellow man.

Dr. Watson was born in 1910 in the small agricultural community of Ridge Spring, South Carolina. His father was a farmer and postmaster of the local post office. Dr. Watson's mother was a schoolteacher. He grew up milking cows and plowing fields. Like many of his peers, he studied agriculture, and it was his good fortune to actually study under the late senior South Carolina Senator, Strom Thurmond, who was a teacher at the time.

After high school, Walter Watson attended the Citadel in Charleston, South Carolina, where he played football and excelled academically. Upon finishing college, he returned to Edgefield County, and for 5 years, he served as both the principal and football coach at Edgefield County High School and later went to work in the school system of Bainbridge, Georgia.

While working in the educational field, Walter Watson saved money for medical school. He eventually attended the Medical College of Georgia and graduated in 1943. He did his internship and residency at the University Hospital and was board certified in Obstetrics and Gynecology.

Dr. Watson served in the Army as an Army physician from 1945 to 1947. After being dis-

charged from the Army, he returned home to join the medical practice established by the late J.W. Thurmond, M.D.

For more than 60 years, Dr. Watson has practiced at the University Hospital in Augusta, Georgia. He has delivered an estimated 15,000 babies. His reputation of excellence at the hospital and his care and concern for his patients has been so notable that a wing of the hospital was named after him. The W.G. Watson, M.D., Women's Center was dedicated in 1999.

Other notable achievements include his marriage to Audrey, and their four daughters and one son. Dr. Watson is also the oldest living graduate of the Citadel.

Today, I celebrate Dr. Watson's birthday as well as his longtime service to his community, his State and his Nation. God bless you, Dr. Watson.

COMMEMORATING TAIWAN'S 2-28  
INCIDENT**HON. KENNY MARCHANT**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 25, 2010*

Mr. MARCHANT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to observe the 63rd commemoration this coming Sunday of Taiwan's "2-28 Incident." The Incident was an antigovernment uprising in Taiwan that began on February 28, 1947, and was violently suppressed during the following weeks by soldiers that had been sent from China by Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek. Estimates of the number of deaths vary from 10,000 to 30,000.

In the fall of 1945, 50 years of Japanese occupation of Taiwan ended after Japan had lost World War II. In October of that year Taiwan was returned to the Republic of China (ROC).

Due to the mounting corruption and the implementation of unfair public policy and official practices on the indigenous population, tension increased between the Taiwanese people and the ROC administration. According to Ambassador John L. Stuart, "the economic deterioration of the island and administration of the mainland officials became so bad that on February 28th, 1947, popular resentment erupted into a major rebellion." The flashpoint came on the evening of February 27, 1947, when in Taipei a dispute between a female cigarette vendor and certain armed Monopoly Bureau agents and special police agents triggered civil disorder and open rebellion that lasted for days.

The Incident is now openly discussed and commemorated as Peace Memorial Day. The details of the Incident have become the subject of investigation. Monuments and memorial parks to the Incident victims have been erected in a number of cities in Taiwan.

Madam Speaker, the Incident had far-reaching implications. Over the next half century, the Taiwanese democracy movement that grew out of the Incident helped pave the way for Taiwan's momentous transformation to a thriving and pluralistic democracy. Nowadays Taiwan has demonstrated the strength of its democracy by succeeding in peaceful handovers of power. I am confident that Taiwan will continue to make contributions to the development of democracy in the region.

Madam Speaker, I hope Members will join me in commemorating this important historical event.